# LABRUS TINCA?

VAR?

*CHARACTER GENERICUS.*

*Os* labiis craſſis, replicatis; maxillis externis tectis.

*CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.*

LABRUS roſtro ſurſum reflexo, cauda in extremo circulari?

*Lin. Syſt. Nat.* p. 477.
*Arted. gen.* 33. *ſyn.* 56.

Turdorum ſeptimum genus?

*Rondel. piſc.* p. 177.

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*Spari* et *Labri* genera a Linnæo non ſatis accurate a ſe invicem videntur ſejungi. Ne quid enim dicamus de nimia horum generum affinitate, colorum quibus multæ ſpecies ornantur magna eſt diverſitas. Ipſos quoque characteres confudiſſe et obſcuraſſe videtur Linnæus, qui pinnas Spari pectorales vult eſſe rotundatas, pinnas autem Labri pectorales acuminatas. Quod cum prorſus contrarium ſit in pleriſque ſpeciebus, non poſſumus non ſuſpicari Linnæum, lapſu calami, verborum ordinum invertiſſe; et hoc modo in Syſtema Naturæ vitium irrepſiſſe.

Characteres quos inſtituit Blochius, utpote ſimpliciores, in errorem minus ducturos opinamur.

Labri Tincæ, in maribus Europæis ſæpius conſpecti, colores multum variant. Hujus depinximus, magnitudine quaſi dimidiata, varietatem? non quotidianam, ſed fere omnium ſplendidiſſimam; quam non continet eximium Blochii opus; quæque ſatis fideliter depicta haud poſſit reperiri in alio aliquo opere ichthyologico.

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THE

# VARIEGATED WRASSE.

*Generic Character.*

*Mouth* retractile: lips thick and revolute.

*Specific Character, &c.*

Duſky-red Labrus, whitiſh beneath, with blue variegations and rounded tail.

*Var.* Whitiſh Labrus, variegated with red, orange, and blue, the variegations on the body flexuous, on the fins ſpotted.

Ancient WRASSE?

*Pennant Brit. Zool.* p. 214. pl. 47. *No.* 115.

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The ſpecies in the two genera of *Sparus* and *Labrus* are, according to Linnæus, not ſo eaſily diſtinguiſhed as might be wiſhed; ſince excluſive of the ſtrong affinity between the genera, many of the ſpecies vary much in color. It muſt likewiſe be added that even the Linnæan characters of theſe genera ſeem to be involved in great obſcurity; a part of the generic character of *Sparus* conſiſting in the rounded ſhape of the pectoral fins, *(pinnæ pectorales rotundatæ)* while thoſe of the genus *Labrus* are expreſsly ſaid to be *acuminatæ*. Now the very reverſe of this being really the caſe in moſt of the ſpecies, I am therefore inclined

inclined to ſuppoſe that Linnæus, thro' a lapſus calami, committed this miſtake in writing the generic characters, and that it has been erroneouſly thus printed in the Syſtema Naturæ. Dr. Bloch's characters are more ſimple, and of courſe, leſs liable to miſlead.

The Labrus Tinca, frequently found in the European ſeas, varies much in color: the ſpecimen repreſented on the preſent plate, of about half the natural ſize, exhibits one of the richeſt varieties, and is far ſuperior to thoſe which are generally ſeen. It does not occur in the ſplendid publication of Dr. Bloch, nor does it indeed ſeem to have been any where repreſented with a ſufficient degree of exactneſs.